

A
HISTORY *211 b/6*
OF THE
CATHEDRAL CHURCH
OF
PETERBOROUGH,
Peterborough Cathedral
FROM ITS FOUNDATION
K
TO THE
PRESENT TIME;
CONTAINING THE MANNER IN WHICH
IT HAS BEEN DESTROYED,
ONCE BY THE DANES AND TWICE BY FIRE,
AND AS OFTEN RE-EDIFIED.

—●●●●●●●●●●●●—
A NEW EDITION.
—●●●●●●●●●●●●—

Peterborough

PRINTED AND SOLD BY CHARLES JACOB.

ISTORY

CATHEDRAL CHURCH

PERPETUITY

FROM THE FOUNDATION

OF THE CITY OF LONDON



PRINTED AND SOLD BY CHARLES JACOB

A
H I S T O R Y
OF THE
CATHEDRAL CHURCH
OF
P E T E R B O R O U G H.

WHEN this realm of England was divided into an heptarchy, the Mercian kingdom being one: and the greatest of them all, had the County of Northampton within its dominion: The Eastern part of which County being moorish and fenny, was anciently inhabited by a people called the Gyrvi, of the old word gyr, which signified a fen; and for the conveniency and fertility of this place, for its nearness both to the high and upland country, and the Fens, it was thought meet for habitation.

THE village was at the first, called by the name of Medeshamsted, from a deep pit or gulf
B in

in the river Nen, called Medefwell; which ancient writers of the place, affirm to have been of wonderful depth; and so cold in the heat of summer, that no swimmer was able to abide the cold thereof; and yet in the winter it was never known to be frozen; which properties are now lost with the well itself; only tradition hath preserved a dark memory thereof, adventuring to say, that the place where it was, is a little beneath the bridge that is now standing.—And if this well be lost, there is another sunk with it into the pit of oblivion, namely, St. Laurence's well, of great fame in ancient days.

BUT to return to our history; Penda, King of the Mercians, at that time reigned, who had five children, Peada, Wolfere, and Etheldred, being his sons; Kyneburga, and Kynefwitha, his daughters—Penda being dead, Peada his eldest son succeeded, who in the year 656, or, as some say 655, founded the monastery of Medeshamsted; in the foundation whereof, he laid such stones, as that eight yoke of oxen could scarce draw one of them.—But King Peada lived not to finish his work; for his wife, Alflæda, (forgetting the glorious memory of her ancestors, Oswald the martyred King of Northumberland her grandfather, King Oswine her father, and King Alfred her brother) betrayed him

him to death, at the Paschal Feast, when he had reigned four years: Then did his crown and kingdom descend upon Wolfere, his next brother.

THIS Wolfere, was made a christian by Finanus, a bishop, who came out of Scotland; (for that kingdom had bishops then, and long before) and being baptized by Finanus, Wolfere vowed to purge his kingdom from idolatry; to demolish all idolatrous places; and to the utmost of his power, promote the christian religion; which vow, he likewise made the second time, when he was married to St. Ermenilda, daughter of Egbert, King of Kent; but within a while, giving too much ear to Werbode his steward, he neglected his vow, taking no care of the christian religion, nor of erecting temples, but committed many impieties, so that the chaos of heathenism began to overspread all again — He had by his wife. St. Ermenilda, two sons, the elder Wolfade, the other Rufine: Wolfade was much addicted to hunting; and one day, pursuing a goodly hart, which being hotly pursued, took foil in a fountain near unto the cell of St. Chad; who espying the hart weary, and almost spent, was so compassionate towards him, that he covered him with boughs and leaves, conjecturing, as if heaven had some design in the accels and

B 2
deport.

deportment of the beast.—Presently comes Prince Wolfade, and enquired of St. Chad concerning the hart. who answered, that he was not a keeper of beasts, but of the souls of men, and that Wolfade was then, as an hart to the water brooks, sent by God to the fountain of living water; which Wolfade hearing with astonishment, entered into farther conference with St. Chad in his cell, and was by him baptized; And returning with joy to his father's court, he secretly told his brother Rufine of all that had passed, persuading him to be baptized also; to which Rufine consenting, Wolfade brought him to St. Chad. who likewise baptized this other brother.

THIS christian pair of brothers did often resort to a private oratory, where they performed their devotions; but at length being discovered to their father, by the steward Werbode, who infligated and inflamed the fire of paternal fury against the sons; King Wollere the father, watching the time, when his sons were gone to pray, followed them, and entering the oratory, slew both his sons with his own hand; and he, and Werbode demolishing the place, left the bodies of his sons buried in the rubbish — Shortly after this unnatural and bloody act, Werbode the steward died suddenly; and King Wollere

Wulfere being deeply wounded in conscience, (the distraction whereof, deprived him of all rest and quietness, what through the worm tormenting him within, and St. Ermenilda his wife without counselling him thereto) repaired to St. Chad, to whom he confessed his great offence, and professed an hearty contrition for the same, which he was resolved to expiate with whatever penance St. Chad should impose upon him; which was no more, but to restore the christian religion, repair the ruined temples thereof, and to found new ones.

IN the western cloyster of the church of Peterborough, (as shall hereafter be more largely related) was the story of this King Wulfere curiously painted in the windows, and in the midst of the quadrangle of the whole cloyster, commonly called the Laurel Yard, was there a well, which common tradition would have to be that wherein St. Chad concealed Prince Wolfade's heart.

AND now the building of the monastery of Medeshamstead, begun by King Peada, went on again through the zealous endeavours of King Wulfere, his brother Etheldred, and his sisters Kyneburga and Kynelwitha assisting him therein, until the same was perfected; which he dedicated

cated to the memory of the apostle St. Peter; bestowed many large privileges and immunities upon it; gave many fair possessions; and established the bounds of its jurisdiction from Croyland on the east, to Wansford-Bridge, on the west; and so northward to Easton and Stamford; and all along by the river Welland to Croyland again.

THE quarry from whence King Wolfere fetched the stone for this Royal Structure, was undoubtedly that of Barnoak, near unto Stamford; where the pits from their large vacuities, speak antiquity and contribution to some such great design.

KING Wolfere dying without issue, his brother Etheldred succeeded him, and continued his good affection to the monastery of Medeshamsted; (now Peterborough) the royal founder whereof, built also a house for the abbot; which, upon the dissolution by Henry VIII. became the bishop's palace: All the rooms of common habitation, being above stairs; and underneath, were very fair vaults and goodly cellars for several uses.—The great hall, a magnificent room, had at the upper end, in the wall, very high above the ground, three stately thrones; wherein were placed sitting, the three
royal

royal founders, carved curiously of wood, painted and gilt; which in the year 1644, were pulled down, and broke to pieces.

KING Etheldred having reigned thirty years, laid down his crown and sceptre; and shaving himself, became first a monk, and afterwards abbot of Bardney, as Malmſbury writeth, Anno 804: Konredus ſucceeded him, as in the chronological table annexed to Ingulphus.

THE monastery thus finiſhed, care was taken to furniſh it with an abbot and monks; and the firſt who was made abbot, was Saxulf, a pious and prudent man.—He being an Earl, thought it no ſhame to aſſume a religious preſidency in this place; and arriving at a great height of fame and reputation by his piety and holy life, he quickly gathered a convent of monks, who flocked to him from ſeveral places; ſo that in a ſhort time, other monaſteries were alſo founded and replenished from this; eſpecially that of Thorney was founded by this abbot Saxulf; which place was ſo called from the woody or thorny nature thereof.

IN the time of Abbot Hedda, the glory of the monaſtery of Medeſhamſted, ſuffered a great eclipse, through the invaſion of the Danes, deſtroying

stroying all before them with fire and sword.—
In which bloody tempest, the monastery of
Croyland was first overwhelmed; the Danes kill-
ing there all the monks they met with, and Oske-
tulus, the barbarous King, slaying the abbot
Theodorus upon the altar with his own hands;
and having plundered the monastery, they set it
on fire.

ON the fourth day after, the Danes departed
with a great booty of goods and cattle towards
Medeshamsted, where they found many of the
country people retired within the monastery,
who, with the monks stood upon their guard:
The Danes making several assaults, Tulba, bro-
ther of Earl Hulba, was by the defendants,
mortally bruised on the head with a stone, cast
from that tower which he assaulted; whereat,
Hulba was so enraged, that having entered the
monastery, he slew all the monks with his own
hand, the rest of the people were slaughtered by
the soldiers — The ancient abbot Hedda, escaped
not the hands of Hulba, but was slain with his
monks *—Then were the altars broken down,
monuments demolished, a goodly library set on
fire, charters, evidences, and writings (to a great
number) all torn in pieces: The church itself,
with

* The monument for Abbot Hedda and his monks, to be seen
to this day.

with all the appendant buildings, was set on fire, which continued burning for fifteen days together.—After which they departed with the riches of the monastery, and the cattle of the country.—The two Earls Sidrocs, marching in the rear of this destroying multitude, to guard them over the river, when two wains, laden with the choicest riches, were overthrown, and all sunk with the horses into a deep pit, a little beneath the bridge, supposed to be Medeswell before mentioned.

THE monastery of Medeshamsted, thus destroyed by the Danes, lay buried in its own ruins the space of ninety-six years; no abbot, monk, government, or religion there professed in all that time, that is to be found in history; only King Beorredus seized the lands of the monastery, giving them to his soldiers, until Athelwoldus, bishop of Winchester, (a man very zealous in the building and restoring of churches) laid his hands to the restoration of it; for, as writers say, he was warned of God in the night, that he should go to the midland English, and repair the monastery of St. Peter; which he found desolate and forsaken.—He presently, with such help as he could get, set about cleansing of it.—But seeing what a great business the restoration was likely to prove, he re-

C

turned

turned to Winchester to make preparation for so great a design.—And first he made his address to God by fervent prayers, to incline the hearts of King Edgar and his Queen, and nobles, that he might have them so propitious, as to contribute their assistance to this work. —And being one time at his prayers, the Queen had secretly gotten behind the door, to listen what it was that Athelwold prayed; and suddenly she came forth upon him, telling him, that God and herself had heard his prayers; and from thenceforth, she began to solicit the King for the reparation of this monastery; to which the King assenting, applied himself thereunto, until he had finished the same, which was in the year 970.

THE monastery thus re-edified, King Edgar desirous to see it, went thither, with Dunstan then archbishop of Canterbury, and Oswald archbishop of York, attended also with most of the nobility and clergy of England, who all approved, and applauded both the place and work. —But when King Edgar heard that some charters and writings, which some monks had secured from the fury of the Danes were found; he desired to see them, and having read in the privileges of this place, that he had a second Rome within his own kingdom, he wept for joy:

joy: And in the presence of that assembly, he confirmed their former privileges and possessions; the king, nobles and clergy, offering large oblations, some of lands, some of gold and silver.— At this glorious assembly, the name of the place was changed from Medeshamsted to Burgh; and by reason of the fair building, pleasant situation, large privileges, rich possessions, plenty of gold and silver, which this monastery was endowed withal, there was an addition to the name, as to be called Gildenburgh, though in reference to the dedication, it hath ever since been known by the name of Peterborough.—Writers say that in those days this abby was of so high account, that what person soever came hither to pray, whether king, lord, bishop, or abbot, he put off his shoes at the gate of the monastery, and entered barefooted: And the convent was so very much had in esteem, that if any of them travelled into any of the neighbouring parts, they were received with the greatest respect, and reverence that could be.

In the days of King Edgar, and Abbot Adulphus, the whole nasee, or country adjoining; and which is now known by the name of Burghfoke, was all a woody and solitary place, until this Abbot Adulphus cut down woods, built manors and granges, and let the lands to farm;

so that the people encreasing, and as yet no churches built amongst them, they came to Peterborough to receive the sacraments, and to pay their church-duties, which continued for many years after.

ELSINUS, of whom is no glorious character, recorded by writers, save this, (if it may be so accounted) that he was very inquisitive after reliques; with which he was very industrious to enrich his monastery.—And, because Swapham and Wittlesey, (the compleatest historians of this place,) have punctually set down a bedrole of his reliques; the reader, I hope, will not take it ill to have a relation of some of them.—Amongst the reliques of this place, that which was most famous, and bare the bell away from all the rest, was St. Oswald's arm, which continued uncorrupted for many years; and that in the time of Abbot Martin, it was shown to Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, 487 years after its cutting off—Besides St. Oswald's arm, there were some of his ribs, and some of the earth where he was slain—There were pieces of our Saviour's swaddling cloaths:—of the manger wherein he was laid;—two pieces of the cross, which could not be burnt;—of the sepulchre of our Lord, in four places;—of the garments of St. Mary, in two places;—of Aaron's rod.—

Reliques

Reliques of St. John the Baptist;—of old Simeon;—of the sepulchre of Lazarus;—of the stone-patin of St. John the Evangelist.—Reliques of St. Peter the Apostle;—of St. Paul.—A shoul-der blade of one of the innocents whom Herod slew.—And reliques of many other saints and martyrs.

BUT whilst Elsinus was careful abroad for such reliques, his abbey at home sustained loss in more real endowments; for Hoveden in Yorkshire, with many other lands, were wrested from the monastery of Peterborough.—Yet he added something of his own, purchasing a fourth part of Wittlesey-meer, and giving it to his abbey.

ABBOT Leofricus, by birth a relation to the royal blood, and dear to King Edward and Edgith his wife, held by extraordinary benevolence, five abbeys in his hands at once, viz. Burton, Coventry, Croyland, Thorney, and Peterborough.—He redeemed of King Edward, certain lands belonging to his monastery; as Fiskerton, for twenty marks; Fletton for eight marks; and Burleigh for eight marks; which were demised to the church of Peterborough.

ABOUT

ABOUT this time, Egelricus, a monk of Peterborough, afterwards bishop of Durham, gathered whilst he was bishop, great store of wealth; yet not to himself, but that he might be rich in good works; amongst which, there is one that continues his memory to this very day; the bank from Deeping to Spalding, for in those days, the passage being very difficult, by reason of woods and deep marshes, he raised that causeway, for the benefit of travellers; which for many years after, was called by his name, Egelric-Road, though now, it be known only by the name of Deeping Bank.

ABOUT the year 1070, a Norman, whose name was Tuoldus, was placed in the abbey of Peterborough: He being a stranger, neither loved his monastery, nor his convent him.—It happened at that time, that the Danes under Sweyn their king, son of Canutus, invaded this land; and coming hither, the monks, and others with them, defended themselves for a time, with much valour, in a hot dispute at Bolehith-gate, now commonly called Bulldike-gate, being on the south of the monastery, and yet standing: Where, when they perceived their entrance doubtful, and that they could not cut their way with their swords and weapons, they assayed to do it by fire upon the adjoining buildings; and

and so entered through flame and smoke.— Being entered, they seized upon all the good things they found, carrying them away to Ely, leaving much of the buildings (the monastery only excepted,) destroyed by fire.—Amongst the things he took away, was the golden crown from the head of the crucifix; with the precious stones, and the footstool under its foot, made of pure gold and gems: together with two golden bears, and nine silver ones: and the great table, which was all gold and silver, and precious stones; and went to be before the altar; with a great number of books, and other precious things; such as there was not the like in all England!

BUT there happened another act of Turol-dus's, which raised his discontents higher in himself, and brought him lower in the good affection of his convent; for he received into his monastery, two monks from beyond sea, who secretly stole away, and carried many of the church goods with them.

IN the abbotship of Godricus, foreign thieves from Almain, France and Flanders, broke in through a window into the church, and stole away a cross of beaten gold, with many jewels; two chalices and patins; two golden candlesticks

sticks which Elfricus archbishop of York had given to this church.

Soon after this, Ernulfus, prior of Canterbury, was offered to the monks of Peterborough, for their abbot; who willingly accepted him, as being both a pious and prudent man.—In his time, all things went happily with the monastery; and whilst he was abbot here, the church of Thirlby, near Bourn in Lincolnshire, was dedicated by Robert Bloet bishop of Lincoln; which church with the manor, then belonged to Peterborough.

In the time of John of Salisbury, the monastery was burnt again; little more than the chapter-house escaped the flames, which took hold of the village, and wholly consumed it.—Wittlesey writes, that one in the bake-house being to kindle a fire, with much pains, could not make it burn; which John the abbot, being present, seeing, in a cholerick mood, cried, the devil kindle it! And presently the fire flamed to the top of the house, ran through all the abbot's offices, and thence to the town: The fire burning in one of the towers for nine days together, a violent wind drove the coals upon the abbot's house, and fired that also.—Afterwards abbot John began to build the church again,
anno

anno 1118, which he industriously prosecuted, but lived not to finish it.—A year before this, was the church of Castor dedicated, as may be seen by an inscription yet continuing over the chancel door.

XV KL MAII DEDICATIO HU-
JUS ECCLESIAE MCXXIIII.

ABBOT Martin was very industrious in repairing and perfecting the building of the monastery; and especially the church, to the dedication whereof anew, there came hither Alexander bishop of Lincoln, the abbots of Thorney, Croyland, Ramsey, and others, to whom ABBOT Martin shewed the holy reliques, and St. Oswald's arm, anno 1143, 23 years after its burning.—The tokens of which conflagration are yet to be seen (or of some other,) in the inside of the west-porch above.—He changed the situation of the village to the western side of the monastery; for before, it was on the east; which part is now called Boongate.—He appointed the market place where it now is.—He removed the church of St. John Baptist (which before, stood in a close, still known by the name of St. John's Close,) to the place where now the church standeth.—He changed the place of wharfage for boats coming to the town, to that which is

D now

now commonly used — He planted the vineyard, and added many buildings — He entertained King Stephen, who came hither to see the arm of St. Oswald.

WILLIAM de Watervile, was very industrious in perfecting the buildings of his monastery, and adding new ones. — He built the cloysters, and covered them with lead. — He ordered and disposed the choir of the church in that manner as it lately stood, and in some sort continues still. — He built the chappel of Thomas a Becket, which was finished by his successor, and is now standing in the middle of the arch of the church-porch, as you enter the church. — He erected a priory at Stamford, and the church of St. Michael there. — He settled a yearly maintenance upon the church of St. John Baptist in Peterborough, enacting, that the chaplain should yearly, upon Michaelmas-Day, bring his church key to the Sacrist of the monastery, as an acknowledgement upon it.

BENEDICT, a very learned man, and of good note, at his entrance into this abbey 1177, freed it of 1500 marks which it was in debt, and laboured much in recovering the abby lands: His actions at home, towards his monastery, were great and many. — It seems the nave, or body of the

the church did not please him, therefore he built it, after a better manner, from the lantern to the porch, as it now is.---He set up also the pulpit in the body of the church.---He built the great gate leading to the monastery, and over it the chapel of St. Nicholas, and an hospital, now the school-house, all which are yet standing; and finished the chappel of Thomas a Becket, which was begun by his predecessor.---His benefactions upon the church were many, which made his memory deserve to remain in benediction for ever! The abby in his days, was full of all good things; in his house nobleness and exaltation; among the servants in the several offices, jocundness and mirth; the greatest plenty of meat and drink; and at the gate, a gladsome reception, without any murmuring of the guests or strangers.---He was much in favour with King Richard, who confirmed to his monastery, the marsh of Peakirk, now commonly called North-Fen; about which, there was some dispute with Radulphus Lord of Deeping, but Abbot Benedict proved, that the marsh belonged only to his tenants of Peakirk, Glington, Maxey, and Northborough -- He also recovered the marsh of Eye and Singlesole.---King Richard also granted unto Benedict, his confirmation of the eight hundreds, as his predecessors had done; and withal, his charter for holding of a fair in

Peterborough upon the feast of St. Peter, for eight days, although it now be contracted into two.

ABBOT Andreas, first a monk here, then prior; and afterwards, for his many virtues, was chosen abbot.---The villages of Alwalton and Fletton, which then belonged to him, he gave to the monks kitchen for an augmentation of their commons.---Having been abbot about five years, he died anno 1199, and was buried in the south isle, at the back of the choir.---He is said to be the first who brought up the custom of anniversaries with solemnity.

ACHARIUS prior of St. Alban's, was elected abbot here anno 1200, who by care and diligence, much enriched his church, and built many buildings in several manors belonging to it.---He maintained suit with the abbot of Croyland for the marsh of Singlesole, and recovered it; letting it again to the abbot of Croyland for a yearly acknowledgement of four stone of wax; he died 1210, and was succeeded by

ROBERTUS de Lindsey, who was monk and sacristary of Peterborough, afterwards abbot, unto which he paved the way by his good deeds towards the church; for, whereas the windows were

were before, only stuffed with straw to keep out the weather, he beautified above thirty of them with glasse; and his example brought the rest, by degrees, to the like perfection.—He settled the hundred of Nassaburgh in peace and quietness; for, in those days, the foresters with their cattle, over-ran all; whereby the inhabitants of the towns therein, were much endamaged from their domineering in these parts, by virtue of forest lands.—Abbot Robert gave King John 1320 marks for disforesting this part of the country.—He covered the abbot's hall with lead.—He made in the south cloyster, a lavatory of marble for the monks to wash their hands in when they went to meals; their hall being near, on the other side of the wall; the door leading into it, being yet standing, though the hall be long since demolished; only some small remains on the wall side are yet to be seen; but the lavatory continued entire until the year 1651; and then, with the whole cloyster, it was pulled down.—ABBOT Robert, at his entrance into this place, found but seventy-two monks, to which he added eight more, assigning the manor of Bellasife for their maintenance, where he built a fair manor-house.—In his time there arose great discords betwixt the civil and ecclesiastical states, that the land stood interdicted the space of six years.—Then followed bitter wars

Wars between King John and his Barons.—The King passed through Suffolk and Norfolk, miserably wasting almost all he could come at; and coming to Peterborough and Croyland, he plundered these churches; and with his accomplices, committed many outrages in the country round about: At Croyland, he fired all the stacks which the inhabitants had newly gathered in; and returned to Lynn with great spoils: But soon afterwards, taking his journey northward, all his carriages were cast away and perished as he passed the river Welland.

Abbot Walter was a man generally good, pious, honest, loyal, free, and liberal in the dispensation of the demesnes belonging to his church.—In those days, King Henry III. was straightly put to it for maintenance; and was constrained to live upon ecclesiastical benevolence, going from one monastery to another to be entertained; and he found abbot Walter very free towards him, who, at two several times, gave him the best entertainment his monastery could afford; at one of which times, the Queen and Prince Edward came with the King.—This abbot had several journeys to Rome about the church of Castor, which the Pope's covetousness demanded, with many others in England, by an apostolic mandate, fraught with
intreaties

intreaties and threatenings; but the King their patron and founder, strictly forbad such horrid donation to the Pope's simony and fraud.—The last time Walter was at the Pope's court, being accused by the Pope's agent in England for resisting the mandate, he was rebuked by the Pope in very opprobrious terms, who, commanded him to be expelled the court; which was done in so shameful a manner, that the poor abbot taking it much to heart, fell into an incurable disease and died,

THIS story makes good the etymology that some of the Romanists themselves give of Rome.

Rome gnaweth hands, as dainty cates;
And whom it cannot gnaw, it hates.

WILLIELMUS de Hotet, being a monk of this place, was chosen abbot the sixth of February, anno 1246, the 31st. of Henry III.—He procured a charter for a fair to be kept at Oxney, on the eve of the nativity of Mary, and to continue for eight days.

JOHANNES de Caletto, so called from the place of his birth in Normandy, was elected abbot of Peterborough, anno 1249, in the 33d of Henry III.—He was allied to Queen Elianor; and

and such a ray of favour shined upon him through that relation, that he was made one of the king's chief justices, and rode in the circuit to execute justice in the kingdom; and in consequence of his frequent absence, he appointed Robert Sutton his deputy; by whom the church was as well managed as if the abbot had been there himself; who often came to see how things were ordered.—He was very careful in adding to the buildings of the monastery.—He built a goodly building called the Infirmary, lately pulled down.—He was liberal to his convent, giving every day to the monk that sat president in the refectory, a gallon of wine, and half a gallon to the rest of the society, and a gallon to the monk who celebrated high mass; for which he assigned ten pounds yearly to be paid out of the lands of his manor of Polebrook.—He gave also a great bell to the church, whereon was

Jon de Caux Abbas Oswaldo consecrat hoc vas.

ROBERTUS de Sutton, so called from the place of his birth, being a little village near Castor, a monk of Peterborough, deputy to his predecessor, was chosen abbot in 1262, and took the oath of allegiance to the King; but it was not long ere he falsified his oath; for in the wars of those times, the King coming to Peterborough to assault the town, espied among the
ensigne

ensigns of his enemies, that of the abby of Peterborough, whereat he was so angry, that he vowed to destroy the nest of such ill birds; Abbot Robert, by mediation of friends, saved both himself and church; but was forced to pay feverely for his delinquency.—After which, happened the battle of Lewes, wherein King Henry and Prince Edward were taken prisoners; then did the other side fleece the abbot.—Afterwards, at the battle of Evesham, Prince Edward overthrew the Earl of Leicester; and the King having recovered himself, demanded large benevolence from the church, particularly from the abbot of Peterborough, who, at different times, paid the sum of £.4323 18s. 5d. for his disloyalty; after which, he became more obedient to his right master.

RICHARDUS de London, erected the great steeple wherein the bells hang; and gave two bells, which were called Les Londress.—In the time of this Richard, one William Parys, prior, built that goodly chappel, commonly called the Ladies Chappel, which in the late times of violence, was levelled with the ground.—He not only laid the foundation, but perfected the whole work, and adorned it with windows and paintings on the walls; and settled five pound per ann. upon it for service therein.

E

WILLIELMUS

WILLIHELMUS de Woodford, whilst sacrif-
tary purchased the Manor of Southorpe, which,
when he became abbot, he assigned to the
monks; added much to the buildings of this
monastery; and was careful that dependant
eleemofynaries might receive their dues; he
particularly enquired into the hospital of St.
Leonard, now called the Spittle, and made cer-
tain allowances for it: He lieth buried in the
fourth ifle near the choir.

GODEFRIDUS de Croyland, elected abbot
1299, which was the 27th of King Edward I.
—In the first year of his abbotship, it happened
that certain persons were fled for sanctuary into
the chapel of Thomas a Becket, whither they
were purfued, and againft the privilege of the
place, haled out from thence, and fome blood
was fhed, fo that the chapel for fome time flood
fufpended, and no fervice therein to be per-
formed: The bifhop of Lincoln paffing that
censure upon it, until the persons fo taken away,
fhould again be reftored to the liberty of the
place.—At length the bifhop fends his abfolu-
tion, appointing, that the abbot, and fome
others with him, fhould with the fprinkling of
holy water, and finging of the penitential pfalms,
purge the laid chapel, and fo it fhould return to
its former ufe.—He procured a fair to be held

at Northholm yearly, on St. Matthew's day, and a weekly market every Thursday.—About the year 1300, he built the dwelling house at Burghberry, and made the dam, commonly called mill-dam, with a water-mill at the end thereof.—He also built in 1311, of his own free will, the bridge now standing over the river, leading into the city.

KING Edward preparing for a war with Scotland, demanded assistance of the abbot of Peterborough, who, at several times, by duties and free gifts, contributed the sum of £.1533 13s. 4d. about which time the King seized upon the manor of Thorp, belonging to the abby of Peterborough, which Godfrey recovered.

IN the time of Adam de Boothbie, there was an endictment at Northampton against a stoppage of the water at Upwell, so that the river of Nen could not have its course towards Lynn, whereby the counties of Northampton, Lincoln, Bedford, Huntingdon, and Cambridge, were much endamaged: The abbot of Peterborough laboured hard to get the drain scowred; and at length procured a decree from Galfridus Scroop the king's chief justice, for clearing the passage, the Abbots of Ramsey, Thorney, and Croyland

joining with him, this cost the abbot of Peterborough £.63 11s. 1d.

IN the year 1328, there was an inquisition made concerning the bridge leading into Peterborough, which being gone to decay, the question was, who should repair it? for this there was a jury empannelled, six of Northamptonshire, and six of Huntingdonshire, who upon examination returned an ignoramus after this manner, That there was none of right bound to repair it; for there was no bridge there until abbot Godfrey erected it; but the King and Queen coming to Peterborough, abbot Adam repaired the said bridge for their passage.

HENRICUS de Morcot, a wise and discreet man; being elected abbot, he was according to the custom, (though this be the first mention that I find thereof) carried on shoulders with a Te Deum, to the great altar, and from thence to the pulpit, where the prior published his election.—He had a sharp and long contest with Sir Nicolas de Ry, and the abbot of Swineshead, for lands recovered from the sea to his manor of Gosberchirch in Lincolnshire, the story whereof Mr. Dugdale hath set down at large, from a Peterborough manuscript, Hist. of Imb, and Draining, p. 235.

WILLI^o

WILLIHELMUS Genge 1396, was the first
 mitred abbot of Peterborough.

In the 2d year of abbot Richard Ashton, 1439, King Henry VI. by his charter, bearing date July 14th, and the 17th of his reign, granted to the abbot and convent of Peterborough, the keeping of a fair for three days, viz. on St. Matthew's day, the day before, and the day after; and that they should hold the said fair as well in Huntingdonshire as Northamptonshire; which fair is now commonly known by the name of Bridge Fair.—In regard that a fair was formerly granted to be kept the same day at Northolm, in the time of abbot Godfrey, as hath been said, it is probable, that the fair there, either by reason of discontinuance, or some other inconvenience, was settled here at Peterborough.

WILLIHELMUS Ramsey, a monk of Peterborough, from the good opinion which all the convent had of him, was chosen to succeed Richard Ashton.—He contributed with John Maldon the prior, towards the brazen standard with a displayed eagle on the top, which is still extant in the church, and used for the Bible to lay on for reading the lessons.

ABBOT

Abbot Robert Kirton, had great contention with his tenants in Peterborough about pasturage, in the fen called Burgh, a little fen adjoining to the monastery; which, as the inhabitants alleged, the abbot had overcharged with 1300 sheep in two flocks; and complained also to King Henry VIII. that abbot Robert had suffered about thirty tenements in the street called Boongate, to fall to utter decay, and then emarked the same ground, and made it a place for his own deer.—But notwithstanding these contests, abbot Robert forgot not to enlarge and beautify the buildings of his monastery; for he built that goodly building at the east end of the church, now commonly known by the name of the New Building, or Library.—He set up in the church the crucifixorium or rood-loft, at the entrance into the choir.—He set up the gate leading to the deanry, which is yet standing, and retaineth the memory of the builder, in his hieroglyphic of a crozier, with the letter R, and a church or kirk placed upon a tun; which must be construed with this allusion, Abbot Robert Kirk-Tun, and so Kirton. He also beautified the chapel of St. Mary, or the Ladies Chapel, where, after being abbot 32 years he was buried; and there let him rest till we pass to his successor, the last of all the abbots.

JOHN Chambers, last abbot and first bishop, of Peterborough, was advanced to the abbatical chair, anno 1528.—In his first year, Cardinal Wolsey came hither, where he kept his Easter; upon Palm-Sunday, he carried his palm, going with the monks in procession; and the Thursday following, he kept his maundy, washing and kissing the feet of fifty-nine poor people; and having dried them, he gave to every one of them 12d. and three ells of canvass for a shirt; he gave also to each of them a pair of shoes, and a portion of red herrings.—On Easter-day, he went in procession in his Cardinals vestments, and sang the high-mass himself after a solemn manner, which he concluded with his benediction and remission upon all the hearers.

IN the seventh year of this John, Catherine the first wife of King Henry VIII. and mother of Queen Mary, died at Kimbolton Castle, in the County of Huntingdon, January 8th, 1535, and was buried in this church, betwixt two pillars on the north side of the choir, near to the great altar, her hearse being covered with a black velvet pall, crossed with white cloth of silver, which was taken away anno 1643, with her Spanish scutcheons affixed thereto.

SOME write, that for her sake the church of Peterborough fared the better at the dissolution of abbys, and was turned into a cathedral, as if King Henry (like King Josiah, who favoured the grave of the prophet) should favour his wife's grave in this place.—Be it so, or not, the goodly structure of the place, convenient situation for a new erection, with accommodations thereunto, might make a fair plea for a reprieve from the stroke of that ax which cut others down.

I have not as yet seen any record showing how John Chambers demeaned himself towards King Henry, or complied with him in that great dissolution of abbys, that the King should continue him in his place, and not put him to death, as he did some, or depose him, as he did others; but probable it is, that abbot John loved to sleep in a whole skin, and desired to die in his nest wherein he had lived so long, and perhaps might use such means, as might preserve (if not his means to his church, yet) his church to posterity.

AND now, that we are come to those times, wherein that great alteration in the church, and alienation of her revenues happened; for our more orderly proceeding in the declaration thereof,

thereof, we shall first present the reader with an inventory of the church utensils, and of the abbot's domestic goods, and then take him abroad to view the manors and lands, that he may understand what was taken from, and what continued to the church of Peterborough.

ON the 30th of November 1539, being the 31st of King Henry VIII. an inventory was taken as followeth:

IMPRIMIS, One cross set with crystal, silver, and gilt.

One cross of silver gilt, with a staff of silver.

One cross of byrral, with a staff of silver.

One old cross plated upon wood.

Five staves of the Rectores Chori, with heads of silver.

Two candlesticks, gilt.

Two censors gilt, parcel of them.

One censor gilt.

One ship gilt, with a foot.

One little bason and ewer gilt.

Ten chalices gilt, with the patens.

One little chalice parcel gilt.

One broken crewet gilt.

One holy water-stock parcel gilt.

A ghospeller, and a superaltare garnished with silver, and gilt.

Two verge rods of silver.

F

ALTAR-

ALTAR-CLOTHS.

- One altar-cloth of two kings and bishops.
- Two altar-cloths of purple velvet, embroidered with eagles and flower de luces.
- Two altar-cloths of baudekin.
- Two altar-cloths of cloth of silver.
- Two altar-cloths of baudekin, with leopards and stars.
- Two altar-cloths of white baudekin.
- One altar-cloth of white diaper, with a border embroidered with bucks.

A L B S.

- Red albs for passion-week 27.
- Eight albs with crowns and moons.
- Fourteen red albs.
- Forty blue albs of divers sorts.
- Twenty-seven other albs to be worn on single feasts.
- Six albs with Peter-keys.
- Six albs called the kyds.
- Seven albs called Meltons.
- Six albs called dogs.
- One old alb richly embroidered.
- Eight albs with apples of cloth of gold.
- Eight albs with apples of blue tiffue.
- Five old albs with red tiffue.

Eight

Eight albs embroidered with vines.

Five old albs embroidered.

Fourteen albs embroidered with divers sorts.

Thirty albs of old cloth of baudekin.

Nine albs embroidered with green.

Thirteen albs of divers sorts.

Fourteen green albs with counterfeit cloth of gold.

Four albs called ferial white.

Seven albs called ferial black.

VESTMENTS.

ONE suit of crimson velvet upon velvet with a cope and alb suitable to the same.

One chesible with an alb called the burgon.

One suit of blue damask with a cope, and thirteen albs to the same.

One suit of purple velvet embroidered with flowers and angels, with a cope and five albs.

One suit of black velvet with a cope, and four albs with flowers.

One suit of rich white cloth of baudekin with seven albs.

One suit of blue velvet with five albs.

One suit of red velvet with ragged flaves, with three albs of green baudekin.

One suit of crimson velvet with flowers and
one cope, and three albs.

One suit of red satin with three albs.

One suit of red tissue with three tunicles.

One suit of blue tissue with two tunicles.

One suit of cloth of gold with orphers of
tissue.

One suit called the crowns with two copes.

One suit called the Londus with four copes.

One suit of Peter-keys with two copes.

One suit of the dogs with two copes.

One suit of the Meltons so called with eight
copes.

One suit called Overton's with three copes.

One white suit called Godfrey's without a
cope.

One suit of white filk called the Georges with
eight copes.

One suit called the kids with four copes.

One suit of red needle-work with two copes.

One suit of green filk called martyrs with four
copes.

One suit called the squirrels with two copes.

One suit of green filk called the cocks with
one cope.

One suit of green velvet with one cope.

One suit of yellow filk with two copes.

One suit of changeable filk with one cope.

One suit called the daisies with one cope.

One

One suit called the popinjays without a cope,
 One suit of purple velvet without a cope.
 One vestment of black velvet with one alb,
 Three tunicles of black worsted.
 One suit of coarse red without a cope.
 Three tunicles with Peter-keys.
 One vestment called the vines.

COPE S.

IMPRIMIS, Eighteen of red tissue.

Two copes called the burgons.
 Three copes called the golds.
 Six copes of red velvet.
 Three copes of red baudekin.
 One cope of red damask.
 Six copes of blue tissue.
 Two copes of dun tissue.
 Nine blue copes called the roots.
 Five copes of blue velvet.
 Thirteen copes of blue silk called the Georges.
 Seven copes of blue baudekin called the hindes.
 Seven copes of satin of Cyprus.
 Three copes of red silk.
 Three copes of green silk.
 Four copes of red needle-work.
 Thirteen copes of white silk.

In the CHOIR.

IMPRIMIS, The high altar plated with silver, well gilt, with one image of Christ's passion, and a little shrine of copper, enamelled for the sacrament.

Two pair of organs, and two desks of latten, seven basins hanging, with four candlesticks, and banners of silk above the choir, joining to the tomb where Queen Catherine lieth buried.

In the inclosed place where the Lady Catharine lieth buried, one altar cloth of black cloth, one pall of black velvet, with white cloth of silver crossed, and one white altar-cloth.

Belonging to the same remaining in the sacristy, two candlesticks of silver parcel gilt, one chalice and two crewets gilt.

One pair of vestments of black velvet, with an alb to the same.

Ten cloths called pedecloths to lay before the high altar.

Sixteen cloths to hang in the choir.

At the upper end of the church, three altars, and upon every altar a table of the passion of Christ, gilt. with three stained fronts.

In

In the Ladies CHAPEL.

IMPRIMIS, an image of our lady with reddis
rifle, set in a tabernacle, well gilt upon
wood, with twelve great and thirty-four small
images of the same work about the chapel.

A pair of organs, one desk, and four seats, one
tabernacle of the trinity, and one other of our
lady, one desk, and one old candlestick of
latten, four pedecloths called tapets.

Two vestments of white damask with flowers,
one red vestment of satin with flowers, and
also albs for the same.

One suit of crimson velvet with orphers of
imagery of gold, and one cope, and four albs.

Three white altar-cloths, one of them diaper,
with three old painted fronts, two orfers,
eight surplisses.

In St. John's CHAPEL.

A table of alabaster, one front of painted cloths,
with two images of alabaster.

In St. James's CHAPEL.

One table of alaster, two images of the same,
and one front of painted cloths.

In

In the Rood L O F T.

One table upon the altar, eighteen images well gilt, one desk of wood, two orfers, one front of painted cloth,

In the Body of the CHURCH.

One altar with images, gilt; one front of green filk, with ostrich feathers, one coffer, the altar of our ladies lamentation, gilt, one front of painted cloths, four lamps in divers parts of the church.

In the South I L E.

In St. Oswald's chapel, one altar with a front of painted cloth, one table gilt, of St. Oswald.

In St. Bennet's chapel, one altar with a front of painted cloth; one table gilt, with the story of St. Bennet.

In St. Kyneburgh's chappel, one altar with a front of painted cloth, with one table well gilt.

The Trinity CHAPEL.

The altar with a front of old filk, one white altar-cloth of diaper, two candlesticks of lat-
ten, one table of alabaster, one coffer, and
seats of wood, one lamp.

In

In the CLOISTER.

One conduit or lavatory, with divers coffers,
and seats.

In the Ostrie CHAPEL.

One altar cloth, two fronts of painted cloth, two
latten candlesticks, one coffer, one super-altar
of marble, one vestment of green filk, one
vestment of dove coloured filk, two albes.

In the Chapel of LOW.

One altar, two fronts of old painted cloths, two
white altar cloths, two vestments of filk, one
red the other green, and one albe of needle-
work.

One chalice gilt, one corporas, one pair of can-
dlesticks of latten, three bells to ring in the
chapel.

In the Infirmary CHAPEL.

One table of alabafter, one front of filk, two can-
dlesticks of latten, three coffers, four seats, one
vestment, one albe of white filk, with orfers of
red.

6

One

One vestment of white bustian for lent, with an albe, three corporasses with cases, two altar cloths, one old vestment, one old albe.

One vestment blue chamlet with moons and harts, with one albe to the same.

One vestment of red coarse fatten of Cyprus, with harts and knots.

One little bell, one lamp hanging, one broken silver crown.

Old cloths to cover saints in lent.

In the Abbot's HALL.

Four fixed tables,* four forms, one table with two trestles at the high bench, the hangings old tapestry, one cupboard, one chair, one chaffer, &c.

In the Abbot's KITCHEN.

Three great boiling pots, seven small pots, four pans, two kettles, one great brass pan, with two handles, a ladle, a scummer, five spits, one stone mortar, one brand-iron with four bars, two racks of iron, one gridiron, one flesh-hook, two frying pans, one porringer, one fire fork, &c.

* These tables were taken away 1644 to be used at the siege of Croyland, and never returned.

In

In the BARN S.

Fifty loads of hay by estimation.

In the Abbot's FISH-HOUSE.

Old drie ling of the last year,.....	24 warp.
Great ling of this year,.....	100 warp.
In middle and small ling,.....	100 warp.
In drie haberdine,.....	203 fishes.
Stockfish,	208 fishes.
Salmon half a barrel.	

In Eyebury FARM.

In sheep,	29 score and ten.
Oxen,	19.
Bulls and bulchins,	5.
Kine,	18.
Heifers two years and upwards,	13.
Steers,	8.
Yearling calves,	12.
Geldings for the faddle.	4.

In the Abbot's BREW-HOUSE

Four furnaces great and small, two of copper,
 and two of lead, two great mashing fats, an ark
 for ground malt, three fats, five yieling fats,
 thirty-six keelers, two cleansing fives, four
 couls, and a graining tub.

G2

In

In the GARNER.

Six quarters of malt, ten quarters of wheat, two quarters of oats, two quarters of barley, six bushels of pease.

The Abbot's PLATE.

IMPRIMIS, A basin, and ewer of silver, one silver pot of a quart, two standing pieces covered, all gilt; two flat bowls of silver, two salts with one cover gilt, one nut without a cover, two ale pots with two covers, four masers great and small, one dozen of silver spoons, twenty-two masers great and small, with bands of silver and gilt; two pieces of silver, and ten spoons of silver; a horn with two feet of silver, and tipped; a nut tipped with silver and gilt.

IN the two steeples at the front of the monastery, ten bells; and in several other places of the houses, four bells.

THE lavers in the cloister, weighing 100 lb.

ALL which goods were assigned to the said abbot, being guardian for the same time, by the

Commissioners } PHILIP PRICE,
JOHN TREGONAL, and others,

The

*The Length and Breadth of the CHURCH, and
other parts thereof.*

IMPRIMIS, The church containing in length 8
score yards, in breadth 34 yards.

The ladies chapel containing in length 46 yards,
in breadth 14 yards.

The crossile on the north side, in length 18 yards,
and in breadth 12 yards.

Three chapels with the entry into the ladies cha-
pel, in length 14 yards, in breadth 7 yards.

The isle on the south side with the chapels, in
length 21 yards, in breadth 20 yards.

The cloister about four square, in length 168
yards, in breadth 6 yards.

The chapter-house in length 28 yards, in breadth
11 yards,

The great dormitory in length 64 yards, in
breadth 13 yards.

The little dorter, in length 33 yards, in breadth
12 yards.

The fraterie, in length 54 yards, in breadth 14
yards.

The infirmary in length 65 yards in breadth 10
yards.

The chapel at the gate of the monastery, in
length 14 yards, in breadth 8 yards.

The

The vestry, in length 18 yards, in breadth 6 yards.

The abbot's hall, in length 32 yards, in breadth 12 yards.

The abbot's great chamber in length 33 yards, in breadth 10 yards.

Two years after this inventory, viz. 1541, and 33d of Henry VIII. the King changed the person from an abbot to a bishop; the church from a monastery to a cathedral; and the town of Peterborough from a village to a city.

I must acknowledge myself at a stand, as not able to give a perfect account of all manors, lands and tenements belonging to the monastery of Peterborough at the time of the dissolution: for it had lands and tenements in many towns in several neighbouring counties. Those which King Henry took to himself, were Eyebury, Oxney, Dogsthorp, Pillisgate, Kettering with Pightley, Stanwigge, Cottingham with Desborough, Oundle, Ashton Wermington with Egilthorp, Polebrook, Clopton, Lullington; the hundreds of Polebrook, and Navesford; the hundred of Howkeslow, Tinwell with the advowson of the rectory of Gosberkirk, and Fletton, valued together at £733. 9. 0.

KING

KING Henry having taken these lands from the church of Peterborough, made provision for the bishopric; to which he subjected the counties of Northampton and Rutland for his diocese; and appointed the abbot's dwelling for the bishop's palace; and for his maintenance confirmed these lands, viz. Burghbury, Eye, Single-sole, Northam, Witherington, Walton, Paston, Gunthorp, Southorp, Thirlby.—The hundred of Nassaburgh.—A pasture in Park-lane of eight acres.—Forty acres, Sheep-cotes, St. John's yard, the Vinyard, and Toothill, Snorshills, Edgerly fifty acres.—In Padholm eighteen acres, Eastwood 180 acres, Westwood and Burghbury, 246 acres, the Spittle, &c. &c.

IN this dotation of the bishopric, bearing date September 4th, and 33d of King Henry 1541, John Chambers then abbot, was made bishop; and continued his new government till the 4th or 5th of Queen Mary, when this church and the kingdom of England, began again to submit to the Roman yoke.

JOHN Chambers being dead, there succeeded David Pool, fellow of All-Souls college in Oxford, afterwards dean of the arches, and chancellor of the diocese of Litchfield, was made bishop of Peterborough 1556; but I find not his nomination.

nomination thereunto by Queen Mary, only the Pope's in the donation and confirmation of him in this bishopric; for as I have just observed, this church and kingdom of England began again to submit to the Roman yoke, from which they had been delivered in the time of King Edward VI. under which relapse I find the Pope's power in reference to the church of Peterborough to have been more practised than ever it was before; for, throughout the whole series of abbot's formerly recited, I find not any papal election, ratification, confirmation, or any other writing, whereby the Pope contributed any thing to the establishment of any abbot, either to the convent or any other persons, but all was from the King alone, who either himself nominated the person, or accepted such a one as the monks elected, whom he ratified and confirmed in the abby; but now, (and I suppose through the succumbency of Queen Mary and King Philip to the Roman chair) this David was presented unto, and confirmed in this his bishopric by Paul the fourth Pope of that name.

AFTER him came Edmund Scambler, who was nominated by Queen Elizabeth 1560.— While he was at Peterborough, he empaired the the honour, privileges and revenues of his bishopric, passing quite away the hundred of Naf-
faburgh

faburgh, with the whole liberties thereof; the goal, the manor of Thirlby, the manor of Southorpe, &c. to the Queen, from whom the Earls of Exeter enjoy them to this day; as if King Henry had not taken away enough, the bishop himself would pass away more. Scambler being translated to Norwich, there succeeded.

RICHARD Howland, who was master of St. John's college in Cambridge, and made bishop here 1584, being the 27th year of Queen Elizabeth.—I have not much to say of him, his parts, or actions, but shall enlarge this paragraph of his being bishop, here with the death of Mary Queen of Scots, at Fotheringay castle, and buried in this cathedral church.—The whole progress of her life and actions, from her first arrival in England, May 16th 1568, to her coming to Fotheringay, with her several places of removal, and several keepers, is so largely related in the histories of England, that I shall remit the reader to them, and content myself with her death and burial.

UPON the 7th day of February 1586, (18 years from her first arrival) the commissioners for her execution came to Fotheringay, the Earls of Shrewsbury, Kent, &c. and Thomas Andrews of ———— sheriff of Northamptonshire for that year.

H

By

By these the Queen of Scots understanding that the lease of her life was not long to last, only one day longer, she seemed not dismayed with the message, but told the commissioners, she did not think that Queen Elizabeth would have consented to her death; but since it was so, she would most gladly embrace it; and in order thereunto, desired of the commissioners the benefit of her clergy, which the commissioners denying, propounded the bishop or dean of Peterborough.— which the Queen of Scots refused.—The commissioners being departed, she gave orders for her supper, at the time whereof she drank to her servants, and comforted them, because she saw them much troubled for her. — After supper she perused her will, and inventory: At her usual hour she went to bed, slept part of the night, and spent the rest in prayer. — Her fatal day being come, she arose to prepare herself for her last lying down, when she called her servants together, and read over her will to them, letting them know what legacies she had bequeathed — Then did she apparel herself after this manner: In borrowed hair, a bourn; having on her head a dressing of lawn edged with bond-lace; and above that, a vail of the same, bowed out with wire, and her cuffs fuitable; about her neck a pomander chain, and an Agnus Dei hanging at a black ribbon; a
crucifix

crucifix in her hand; a pair of beads at her girdle, with a golden cross at the end.— Her uppermost gown was of black satin, printed, training upon the ground, with long hanging sleeves, trimmed with akorn buttons of jet and pearl, the sleeves over her arms being cut, gave sight to a pair of purple velvet underneath; her kirtle, as her gown, was of black printed satin; her bodies of crimson satin; her stockings of worsted, watched, clocked and edged at the top with silver, and under them a pair of white; her shoes of Spanish leather, with the rough side outward.

THUS attired, she came forth out of her chamber to the commissioners, who were ready in the passage to receive her, and to accompany her to the stage whereon she was to act the last scene of her life, making as yet no show of sadness, until Melvin her servant presented himself upon his knees, bewailing not only her's but also his own misfortune, that he was to be a sad reporter to Scotland of her death: then with some flux of tears she comforted him, that he should shortly see the troubles of Mary Stuart have an end; sending by him her commands to her son, and for to assure him, that she had done nothing prejudicial to his Kingdom of Scotland.—Then addressing herself to the commissioners, she told

them that she had certain requests to make to them, viz. that a certain sum of money might be paid to one Curle her servant, which Sir Amias Pawlet had knowledge of.—That her servants might enjoy such legacies, as by her will she had bequeathed unto them.—That they might be fairly used, and safely sent into their own country; To the first Sir Amias Pawlet gave his testimony and promise: The rest were also promised and performed.—Yet said the Queen of Scots, I have one request more to make, that you would suffer my servants to be about me at my death, to which the commissioners returned a refusal, the Earl of Kent saying, that their presence would be a disturbance to her, and besides he feared there would be some superstition practised in pressing to dip their handkerchiefs in her blood.—My Lord, said the Queen, I will pass my word they shall do no such things; alas! poor souls, it will do them good to bid their mistress farewell: Your mistress (*meaning Queen Elizabeth*) being a maiden Queen, for womanhood's sake would not deny me this courtisy; and I know she hath not so straitened your commission, but that you might grant me more than this, if I were of a far meaner condition.—Whereupon the commissioners consulted, and granted her the nomination of six persons to be with her: so she nominated four
men

men, Melvin, her apothecary; her surgeon, and another old man; and two ladies which used to lie in her chamber.—After this she proceeded towards the great hall in the castle, Melvin bearing up her train, two gentlemen of Sir Amias Pawlet's, on each hand one, and Mr. Andrews the sheriff going before. The scaffold at the upper end of the hall was two foot high, and twelve foot broad, hanged with black; and she seemed to mount it with as much willingness, as ease, and took her seat, the Earls of Shrewsbury and Kent standing on her right hand, Mr. Andrews the sheriff on her left, and the two executioners opposite before her.—Then was the commission read by Beal clerk of the council, which she seemed as little to regard, as if it had not concerned her at all: After the reading of the commission, Doctor Fletcher dean of Peterborough, addressed an exhortation to the Queen of Scots, that she would consider her present condition, and withal, the vanity of her religion, which he besought her to renounce; but she refused, professing her readiness to die therein.—The Lords desiring her to join with them in prayers, she also refused, alledging the difference in their religions, and saying, she would pray by herself. Notwithstanding this check, the Lords ordered the dean to proceed; but Mary again interrupted him

him, and requested, with great earnestness, not to endeavour to disturb the tranquility of her soul; and the two Earls perceiving that it was fruitless to harrafs her farther with theological disputes, ordered the dean to disist from his exhortations, and to pray for her conversion,—The dean accordingly addressed a prayer to heaven for enlightening her heart with the light of the truth, and dispelling the clouds of bigotry and superstition. During the dean's prayer, she employed herself in private devotion from the office of the virgin; and afterwards prayed aloud in English, for the afflicted church, for an end of all her sufferings, for her own son, and for Queen Elizabeth.

Her prayer being thus ended, she began, with the help of her two women to disrobe herself; the executioner also lending his assistance; — She smiled at the incident, saying, that she was not accustomed to undress herself before so large a company, nor to be served by such valets.— Her servants seeing their mistress ready to lay her head upon the block, burst into tears and lamentations: She turned about to them, put her finger to her lips, as a sign of imposing silence upon them; and having given them a blessing, desired them to pray for her.—One of her maids,
whom

whom she appointed for that purpose, tied a linen handkerchief round her eyes, which being done, Mary laid her head upon the block without fear or trepidation, repeated the thirty-first psalm; and stretching out her arms, the signal for the execution, her head was severed from her body at two strokes.—The executioner instantly taking the head from the floor, held it up streaming with blood, and agitated with the convulsions of death, cried aloud “Long live Queen Elizabeth, and may all her enemies perish in this manner.”—The Dean of Peterborough and Earl of Kent only replied “Amen;” the rest of the spectators being dissolved in tears.—The executioners were dismissed with fees, not having any thing that was her’s.—Her body with the head, was conveyed into the great chamber by the sheriff, where it was embalmed until its interment.

The castle of Fotheringay was at that time by lease from Queen Elizabeth in the hands of Sir William Fitz-williams of Milton, near Peterborough, who, by reason of his relation to the place was summoned by the commissioners, that he should come and guard them in his castle.—This gave him opportunities of visiting the Queen of Scots and conversing with her, wherein he depicted himself with such respective civility and courtesy,

courtesy, that the Queen a little before her death, complimented him with her son's picture, and also her watch, which his successors do still enjoy.

THUS died the unfortunate Queen of Scots, (*a woman for her parts, fit to be a Queen*) in the forty-sixth year of her age, and the 18th of her captivity in England, in a fair possibility of spinning the thread of her life to a greater length, had fate been as propitious to her as nature.

UPON Tuesday the 1st of August, was the funeral appointed to be celebrated, in the cathedral church of Peterborough. — The Queen's heralds with the bishop and dean, appointed the place of her interment, which was devised on the south side of the choir, where there was a rich hearse * erected — Upon Sunday night the 30th of July, the corpse was brought by torch-light, from Fotheringay; the body with the closures weighed nine hundred weight; which was conveyed in a chariot made on purpose, attended with all the ensigns of royalty. Upon Monday came to Peterborough, all the lords and ladies appointed as mourners; and on Tuesday marched in procession from the bishop's palace to the cathedral, where the bishop of Lincoln preached

* The remains of the hearse are yet to be seen.

preached a sermon from the 39th psalm, ver. v. vi. vii. and the dean of Peterborough solemnized the funeral; the concourse of people assembled on this occasion was many thousands.

AFTER that the body of this Queen had rested here the space of 25 years; upon the accession of her son King James to the throne, her remains was removed to Westminster, where they now lay under a stately monument erected to her memory.

THOMAS Dove, dean of Norwich and chaplain to Queen Elizabeth, who had so good esteem of him for his excellency in preaching, and reverend deportment, that she was wont to call him, the dove with silver wings.—He entered upon this bishopric in the year 1600, and continued therein the space of 30 years.—He died upon the 30th of August 1630, in 75th year of his age, and lieth buried in the north cross ile of the church.—Over his body was erected a very comely monument of a long quadrangular form, having four corner pilasters supporting a fair table of black marble, and within, the portraiture of the bishop lying in his episcopal habit.—But this monument was in the year 1643, levelled to the ground.

JOHN Towers dean, was made bishop in 1638, in whose time the great commission for draining the fens began to be holden at Peterborough, the commissioners sitting in the bishop's great hall, no less than six days for that purpose, the determination therein being since known by the name of Peterborough law.—He enjoyed his bishopric in peace a very little while, for presently great dissensions arose between the two kingdoms of England and Scotland, which occasioned the bishop's attendance upon the king.—He died January 10th 1648, twenty days before his great master King Charles.

JOHN Towers being dead, the church of Peterborough continued under an inter-episcopate for the space of twelve years (*although the bishop was made but a cypher some years before*) until it pleased the son of divine mercy to dispel that black cloud which had so long eclipsed the glory both of church and state, by the happy (*and never to be forgotten*) restoration of His Sacred Majesty King Charles II. to his just rights.

HAVING related every thing remarkable from the foundation to the conversion of the monastery into a cathedral, and the changing the abbot to a bishop, with the abolishing the popish and establishing

blishing the present protestant religion by Henry VIII. shall now recite the other ecclesiastic government of this church, *viz.* the Dean and Chapter, which was founded by the said King at the desolution of abbys.

THIS he constituted of a dean and six prebendaries, to be exempt from the bishop of Lincoln, and his jurisdiction, and also distinct from the bishop of Peterborough, and to be an entire ecclesiastical corporation of themselves.—Their temporal jurisdiction in such manors, lands and rents as were assigned to them, was like that of the abbots formerly, as their successors therein.—To the dean and prebends, all other officers and members were subordinate; and this was the original constitution and foundation of the whole.

The Dean.

Six Prebendaries Priests.

Eight petty canons.

Four students in divinity.

Eight clerks or singing-men.

An epistoler.

A gospeller.

Two sextons.

Eight choristers.

A master of choristers.

12

Twenty.

Twenty scholars at the grammar-school.
Six alms men or beads-men.
The head-master of the grammar-school.
The usher.
A steward of the lands.
Auditor of the accounts,
Two porters.
Principal cook.
Under cook.
Butler.
Purveyor.
Receiver of the rents.
Organist.
Sub-dean.
Sub-treasurer.
Chantor.
Two counsellors in law.
Solicitor.
Register.
Principal steward.
Keeper of the cloak.

THE lands and rents assigned to this foundation by the king's commission July 20th 1541, were first the whole site or bounds of the monastery, (*excepting such as were allotted to the bishop*) wherein were many dwelling houses for the dean and prebendaries: Also,

In

In NORTHAMPTON-SHIRE.

THE manors of Peterborough, Longthorpe, Castor, Sutton, Glington and Peakirk, Maxy, Northborough, Stamford St. Martin's, Irtlingborough, Stanwigge, and Polebrook.

LEICESTER-SHIRE.

THE manor of Euston and Bringhurst.

LINCOLN-SHIRE.

THE manors of Fiskerton, Repham, Scothern, Sudbrook, Scotter, Walcot, Grantham, Stamford beyond the bridge, Boston, Careby, liberty and hundred of Scotter.

NOTTINGHAM-SHIRE.

THE manors of North-Collingham and South-Collingham.

HUNTINGDON-SHIRE.

THE manors of Botolphbridge, Overton, and Alwalton.

VALUED in those days at the sum of 811 16 1.

OUT-

OUT-RENTS not comprehended in the former value, viz. fishing in Whittlesey-meer, Woland, the water of Upwell Com. Norfolk, and in the River Nene.

I SHALL now present the reader with the relation of some few monuments, yet to be seen; others with the best monuments, the church records (*out of which, a more complete history might have been gathered*) are never to be recovered; being torn in pieces, or burnt, by the more than Gothish barbarity of those ignorant people, who took upon them the glorious name of reformers. An account of which is given, by a faithful hand, at the conclusion of this work.—Only let it be observed, that a finger of divine vengeance seemed to have touched Cromwel: (*although his rabble and he would not see it*) for, being at that time quartered in the house of Mr. Cervington, commonly called the Vineyard, at the east end of the cathedral; out of the court of which dwelling, there was a passage into the church-yard, ascending by three or four stone-steps; Cromwel, (*as others did*) riding up those steps, his horse fell under him, and rising suddenly, dashed his head against the lintels of the door, he fell to the ground as dead; was so carried into the house, and it was about a fortnight ere he could be recovered:

Those

Those that were eye-witnesses affirmed, that the blow raised splinters in his scalp near a finger's length.

As you enter into the church, high above, on the left hand, stands the figure of Robert Scarlet, once a sexton of this church, one that was famous in his generation, as may be collected by what is underwritten.

You see old Scarlet's picture stand on high;
But at your feet, there doth his body lye:
His grave-stone, doth his age and death-time show;
His office by these tokens you may know.
Second to none for strength, and sturdy limb;
A scare-babe mighty voice, with visage grim:
He had inter'd two Queens within this place;
And this town's householders in his live space,
Twice over; but at length his own turn came;
What he for others did, for him the same
Was done: No doubt his soul doth live for aye
In heaven, though here is body clad in clay.

In the south ile, is the monument of abbot Andreas, who was buried in the grave of his predecessors, as the epitaph on the wall over his monument will testify.

Hos tres abbates quibus est prior abba Johannes
Alter Martinus, Andreas ultimus unus
Hic claudit tumulus; pro clausis ergo rogemus.

NEAR

NEAR this, in the same ile, lay the portraitures of three other abbots, found in the ruins of the old chapter-house, founded by King Peada.

AGAINST the wall, above these, is a neat marble monument of the Rev. Dr. William Parker, who died October 3d. 1730, aged 46.

AT the end of this ile, are two handsome compartments: the left hand in memory of Joseph Stamford, who died 1683, aged 46.—The right hand in memory of Thomas Whitwell, who died 11th of October 1759, aged 47.

WE will now go into that goodly building behind the choir, erected by Abbot Kirton, as before recited, it has a stone gothic roof of excellent workmanship, reckoned equal to any in this kingdom, and is supported by two light pillars; in this place a few years past stood a valuable library of Books collected chiefly by Bishop Kennet, which library was by direction of Dean Tarrant removed into the chapel of St. Thomas a Becket over the south porch.

IN the south end of this building, lay many of the family of the Orme's interred; Sir Humphrey Orme, Frances his lady, with their children.—

In

In the wall adjoining, was placed a fair monument, with their statues; the remains of which, are still extant.—This monument was first erected upon the burial of a virtuous gentlewoman of the same name, born in Somersetshire, whom Humphrey, the eldest son of Sir Humphrey, had taken to a wife, who, tho' by her marriage she changed not her name, yet she did her country, and here died. — Under her figure was written this epitaph :

Mistake not reader, I thee crave;
This is an altar, not a grave,
Where fire rak'd up in ashes lies;
And hearts are made the sacrifice,
Till time and truth, her worth and fame,
Revive her embers to a flame.

I cannot tell whither this monument fared the worse for the statues, or the word altar in the epitaph; but it was defaced; and Sir Humphrey Orme, his lady, and eldest son, lived to see the death of what was erected, to continue their memories after death.

ON the south east side of the altar, is a very stately and handsome marble monument of the corinthian order; on which is a portraiture of the gentleman for whom it was erected, laying

K

on

on his left side, and leaning on a cushion, with his hand upon a scull; above which statue is this inscription :

SACRED to the memory of *Thomas Deacon*, Esq; a native of this city; some time high sheriff of this county; — a person eminent for his morality and good life; a true son of the established church: a constant attendant on her worship and service: His piety consisted not in empty profession, but in sincerity and unaffected truth. — He had an ample estate which he fairly acquired, and increased by an honest industry, and managed with excellent prudence, and disposed of to laudable purposes. — His charity (even in the time of his life) was very large, extensive and exemplary; of which he has left a lasting monument in this city, by founding a charity school, and endowing it with a freehold estate of above one hundred and sixty pounds per annum: And also, by settling another estate of twenty-five pounds per annum, for a constant annual distribution of alms to poor ancient inhabitants of this city. — Having thus laid up in store to himself a good foundation against the time to come, he quietly departed this life, on the 19th day of August, 1721, aged 70 years.

To

To whose memory as an instance of her conjugal affection, Mary his sorrowful relict, caused this monument to be erected.

BENEATH his effigy, and upon the front of the tomb, is the following inscription :

IN memory of *Mary*, the relict of Thomas Deacon esq; daughter of John Havey of Spalding, gent.—To which place she was a kind generous benefactor, and bestowed upwards of £400 in pious and useful charities. — She gave also to Fleet, £250 for founding a charity school in that parish.—To the poor of this city, she extended her daily bounty, so private as not to be told; so large as not to be equalled: To which she added several public benefactions; and gave towards augmenting the vicarage of St. John Baptist, £100; and likewise £100 to the salary of the grammar school.—She died January 27th 1730, aged 77 years.

NEAR this is a small marble monument of Frances, wife of Dean Cofin, who died March 25th 1642.

BEHIND the altar, is an ancient monument of our saviour and his apostles carved on it, with

this date at the end 870, in memory of the aged abbot Hedda and his monks, who were slain by the Pagan Danes at the destruction of the monastery.—This is esteemed one of the most ancient christian monuments in the world.—a draught of which may be seen in Gunton, page 243

HERE lieth buried John Hinchliffe, D. D. Bishop of Peterborough, who died Januray 11th 1794, aged 62 years, and for whom a neat plain Tablet is affixed on the north pillar of the altar, with the above inscription.

ON the north-east side of the altar, is a neat marble monument of bishop Cumberland, who died 1718, aged 86 years.

ON the north side is another fair marble, erected to the memory of the Rev. John Workman, M. A. prebendary of this cathedral, rector of Peakirk in Northamptonshire, and vicar of Hamilton in the county of Rutland.

OPPOSITE to the last monument, and between the middle windows in the north wall is a remarkable curious piece of sculpture done by the famous Gibbons; and on it this inscription :

SACRED

SACRED to the memory of CONSTANCE, daughter of John May of Rawmeare, in Suffex, Esq; and of Constance his wife; one of the daughters and coheirefs of Thomas Panton of Westminster, Knight and Baronet, and wife of John Workman predendary of this church, who having by all christian virtues and good qualities, been an ornament to her worthy family, and an honour to all her relations in her life, resigned up her soul to God with admirable patience at her death; she deceased in child-bed at London; and, together with her infant son, she was according to her desire, here interred where she had frequently worshiped God in hopes of a joyful resurrection, September 30th A. D. 1681.

AT the north east corner of this place, lieth interred the Rev. Wm. Gery, a Prebendary of this cathedral, who died the 26th of August, 1787, aged 79 years. Also Susanna his wife who died the 1st of December, 1788, aged 78 years. For whom a handsome marble Tablet is erected between the corner windows.

SINCE the removal of the Library this place has undergone great repairs; it is ornamented with a beautiful Window of stained glass in various colours, and formed by the late Thomas Cooper, an ingenious workman.

Underneath

UNDERNEATH this window the present Dean has lately affixed the following Tables, which serve to strengthen the Compiler's Extracts from Gunton, Willis, and others, *viz.*

THIS church is said to have been founded by Peada, King of the Mercians; but more properly by the first Abbat Saxulphus, A. D. 654.

VETERA MAIESTAS QUEDAM ET RELIGIO COMMENDAT.

ABBATS.

	A. D.
1 Saxulphus	654
2 Cuthbaldus [.....	678
3 Egbaldus	
4 Pufa	
5 Beonna	
6 Celredus	
7 Hedda	833
8 Adulphus	972
9 Kenulphus	992
10 Elfinus	1005
11 Arwinus	1055
12 Leofricus	1063
13 Brando	1066
14 Tuoldus	1069
15 Godricus	1098
16 Matthias	1103
17 Ernulpus	

17	Ernulpus	1107
18	John of Salisbury	1114
19	Henricus de Angeli	1128
20	Martinus de Vesti	1133
21	William de Waterville	1155
22	Benedictus	1177
23	Andreas	1194
24	Acharius	1200
25	Robert of Linsday	1214
26	Alexander	1222
27	Martin of Ramsey	1226
28	Walter St. Edmonds	1233
29	William Hotot	1246
30	John de Caleto	1249
31	Robert Sutton	1262
32	Richard of London	1274
33	William of Woodford	1295
34	Godfrey of Croyland	1299
35	Adam Boothby	1321
36	Henry of Morcot	1338
37	Robert Ramsey	1346
38	Henry of Overton	1361
39	Nicolaus	1391
40	Willielmus Genge	1396
41	Johannes Deeping	1408
42	Richard Afhton	1438
43	William Ramsey	1471
44	Robert	

44	Robert Kirton	1496
45	John Chambers	1528

John Chambers was the last Abbat and the first Bishop.



ANCIENT BURIAL PLACES.

IN THE NAVE.

32	Sub. Prior Franceys	
33	Prior Thingham	
34	Abbat W. Ramsey	1496
35	John Kellmire	1489
36	Sr. Gasceline de Marham	
37	Sr. Robt. de Thorpe	1372
38	Thomas Sutton	
39	Thomas Garton	
40	Sr. John Auketyl, Vicar	
41	Robert Staynton	

IN THE NORTH TRANCEPT.

8	Bishop Dove	1630
9	Richard Worme, Esq;	1589
10	Prebendary Angiers	1630
28	Prior Wm. Paris	1286
29	Prior Cliffe	1381
30	Prior Rightelse	1380

IN

IN THE SOUTH TRANSEPT.

11	Robert Pemberton, Esq;	1691
26	Abbat Sutton's Heart	1274
27	Abbat Wm. Hotot	1250
31	Prior Wm. Exton	

IN THE SOUTH AILE.

1.	2.	3.	Effigies of Abbats unknown.	
4	Abbat John of Salisbury			1125
5	Abbat Martin de Vecti			1155
6	Abbat Andrew			1199
23	Abbat John de Caletto			1262
24	Abbat Wm. de Woodford			1299
25	Reginal Lolworth			
7	John Chambers, <i>the last Abbat and the first Bishop.</i>			

IN THE CHOIR.

12	Queen Catharine	1535
13	{ Elfric, A. B. of York,	1050
14	{ Kinfius, A. B. of York,	1060
16	Dean Duport	1679
17	Abbat John Deeping	1439
18	Abbat John de Croyland,	1321
19	Wm. Genge, <i>1st Mitred Abbat</i>	1408
20	Bishop Dee	1638
21	Abbat Henry de Morcot	1353
22	Abbat Adam de Boothby	1338
	L	The

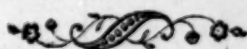
The ancient Monumental Memorials being all indiscriminately removed for the new Pavement, they are in this manner recorded as far as was in the power of P. P. *Fungar inani munere.*



B I S H O P S.

- 1 John Chambers, B. D. 1541
- 2 David Poole, L. L. D. 1556
- 3 Edmund Scambler, D. D. 1560
- 4 Richard Howland, D. D. 1584
- 5 Thomas Dove, A. M. 1600
- 6 Wm. Pierse, D. D. 1630
- 7 Augustine Linsdel, D. D. 1632
- 8 Francis Dee, D. D. 1634
- 9 John Towers, D. D. 1638
- 10 Benjamin Lany, D. D. 1660
- 11 Joseph Henshaw, D. D. 1663
- 12 Wm Loyd, D. D. 1679
- 13 Thomas White, D. D. 1685
- 14 Richard Cumberland, D. D. 1691
- 15 White Kennet, D. D. 1718
- 16 Robert Clavering, D. D. 1728
- 17 John Thomas, D. D. 1747
- 18 Richard Terrick, D. D. 1757
- 19 Robert Lamb, L. L. D. 1764
- 20 John

- 20 John Hinchliffe, D. D. 1769
 21 Spencer Madan, D. D. 1794



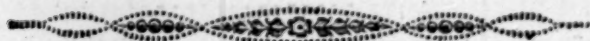
D E A N S.

- 1 Francis Abree, B. D. 1541
 2 Gerard Carlton, B. D. 1543
 3 James Curtop, A. M. 1551
 4 John Boxhall, L. L. D. 1558
 5 Wm. Latimer, D. D. 1560
 6 Richard Fletcher, D. D. 1585
 7 Thomas Nevil, D. D. 1590
 8 John Palmer, D. D. 1598
 9 Richard Cleyton, D. D. 1638
 10 George Meriton, D. D. 1612
 11 Henry Beaumont, D. D. 1616
 12 William Pierse, D. D. 1622
 13 John Towers, D. D. 1630
 14 Thomas Jackson, D. D. 1638
 15 John Cofin, D. D. 1640
 16 Edward Rainbow, D. D. 1660
 17 James Duport, D. D. 1664
 18 Simon Patrick, D. D. 1679
 19 Richard Kidder, D. D. 1689
 20 Samuel Freeman, D. D. 1691
 21 White Kennet, D. D. 1707

L 2

22 Richard

- 22 Richard Reynolds, *L. L. D.* 1718
- 23 William Gee, *D. D.* 1721
- 24 John Mandevil, *D. D.* 1722
- 25 Francis Lockyer, *D. D.* 1725
- 26 John Thomas, *D. D.* 1740
- 27 Robert Lamb, *L. L. D.* 1744
- 28 Charles Tarrant, *D. D.* 1764
- 29 Charles Manners Sutton, *D. D.* 1791
- 30 Peter Peckard, *D. D.* 1793



IN the middle arch of the north isle, behind the choir, was the entrance into the Ladies chapel in which passage, was also the chapels of St. John and St. James, which were all pulled down, and the passage filled up after the devastation made by Cromwel's men, and the materials applied to refit the choir.

WE come now to the choir, the greatest ornament of which, (*and indeed of the whole church*) was the HIGH ALTAR; a structure of stone most exquisitely carved, and beautified, with gilding and painting; it was ascended unto by a dozen steps; and from its basis, reared after the manner of a comely wall, some six feet high, upon which were several curious pilasters supporting a fair
arched

arched roof, whereon were three goodly spires, reaching almost to the top of the church; the whole frame dilating itself to each side, all gilded and painted, saving some void places, which were anciently filled up with plates of silver, as hath been mentioned in the inventory. — I wish I could present the reader with the effigies of it; yet tho' it were glorious and beautiful to the eye, because it had been built and used in times of popery and superstition, it was adjudged criminal enough to deserve demolition.

BUT must an honest convert be hanged because he was once a thief? Must a regenerate person be damned because he was once carnal? Might no reformation, purgation, or alienation of this altar, to a more honest and better use, (as altars in the primitive times of christianity were) relieve it from the hands of an enraged multitude? Yet it could not; for in the year 1643, it was beaten down to the lowest base of plain work.

ON the north side, in two hollow places of the wall, were found two chests about three feet long, in each of which were the bones of a man; and of whom appeared by a plate of lead in each chest, whereon the name of the person was engraved

graved; on the one was Elfricus, on the other Kinfius; both of which had been Archbishops of York.

IN those times, epitaphs and inscriptions on the outside of monuments, were not commonly used; but a plate of lead was put into the coffin, having the name of the deceased party.

ABOVE the altar, in the middle arch, are two beautiful painted windows.

ON the south side is a little pyramidical marble monument of Francis Lockyer, dean of Peterborough, who died July 17th, 1740, aged 74 years.

ON the north side, is a most elegant marble monument of modern construction, erected to the memory of *Richard Tryce*, Esq. — He was steward to the courts, and receiver of all the rents and other revenues, of the right reverend the Bishops of this church; steward, receiver-general and register to the reverend dean and chapter; which trusts, having many years discharged with great fidelity, he died the 28th of July, 1767, aged 72 years; appointing by his last will, his body to be buried here, near to the re-
mains

mains of Dove his late wife; and this marble to be raised over them, as their common memorial.

ADJOINING to the pillar opposite the episcopal seat, is a little neat white marble compartment erected to the memory of *Dean Duport*, who died July 17th 1679, aged 73 years.

BUT here I must insert another lately erected, one that displays itself around, is a larger and more costly than all the rest, and which will be a lasting monument to the memory of the present governors,—the altar of modern construction, and ascended unto by six steps is entirely new; as is also, the octagon pavement of white stone with black marble dots; and I think it a duty incumbent on me, as now in my power, to pay this small tribute of respect to the worthy benefactors.

MUST now return thro' the front gates of the choir into the body of the church; and among a few other monuments, point out the improvements that have there been made within a few years past.—At the entrance on the west front, the steps and pavement of the porch have been fresh set, and the doors all new cased with oak.—As soon as you enter, a beautiful transept dilates itself: The floor has been entirely new laid with Yorkshire stone in regular courses.

THE

THE front of the choir, has been new cased, and ornamented by JOHN FOOTE, Artist; at each end of which, is a flight of new stone steps to the organ loft, which is over the entrance into the choir.—Here you may behold a much larger transept or cross ile; at the north end of which, is a chapel built in 1734, and inclosed with the screen which run across the body of the church to the door going into the square; and is used in times of repairing the choir: On the east side of this chappel, is two fine pieces of tapestry; the one representing the angel calling Peter out of prison; the other, the lame man healed by Peter and John; likewise, between these, behind the stalls, may be observed a doorway which opened into the ladies chapel; the floor of this place, has likewise been done a fresh, and the screens repaired and painted.

BETWEEN the two first windows in the long ile next the north transept, is a neat piece of sculpture erected to the memory of the Rev. William Waring, A. M. rector of Alwalton in Huntingdonshire, vicar of the parish of St. John Baptist, master of the grammar-school in Peterborough, and precentor of this cathedral, who died 1726, aged 66 years.

STEP

STEP we now over to the south cross-ile, and there we shall see three little chapels on the east side; the first of St. Oswald, where the heart of abbot Robert Sutton was buried; in this chapel, is likewise a round flight of stone steps which is suposed, led up into the room where the holy reliques were shown; the second of St. Benedict, where there is a monument of William Easton prior; the third of St. Kyneburga, who was removed from her church of Castor, and buried here.

ON the west side of this ile, stands the chapter house, where the church records were kept, and slept secure until 1643, when they were roughly awakened, or rather cast into a deeper sleep of oblivion; most of them being torn; and the rest dispersed, to the great prejudice of the knowledge of this churches ancient affairs, and particularly of this our history — Anciently, this place was the chappel of the Ostrie.

OVER the Chapter-house door, is a black marble tablet with letters of gold, and set within a gray marble border, to the memory of Dorethy, wife of Francis Standish, who died 1689, aged 49 years.

AGAINST the south wall of this transept, is a handsome white marble compartment, erected

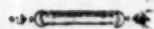
to the memory of Robert Pemberton, attorney, who died November, 1691.

WE will now go out at the door on the south end of this ile, and walk among the adjoining buildings, to see the place where the Infirmary stood, which my author said was pulled down; but am happy to find, there remains some grand arches on the north side of the hall, which denote great antiquity, and deserve more notice than has been taken of them; at the east end of which, stands the chapel; and on the south side, and west end, are dwelling houses for gentlemen who belong the church.

IF the reader be not weary with the perusal of what I have recited, let him but go along with me into the square, just to take a view of the ruins of the cloisters, and there we will part.—The dimensions of these cloisters have been mentioned in the inventory.—In three arches in the south wall, lay the three black marble monuments which are now in the south ile, behind the choir; to which place, they were removed by bishop Kennet.—The windows were all complete and fair, adorned with glass of excellent painting: In the south cloister, was the history of the Old Testament: In the east cloister of the New: In the north cloister, the
figures

figures of the successive kings from King Peada;
In the west cloister, was the history from the first
foundation of a monastery of King Peada, to the
restoring of it by King Edgar.—Every window
had at the bottom, the explanation of the history,
thus in verse:

THE FIRST
W I N D O W.



COL. 1.

King *Penda* a *Paynim* as Writing seyth
Gate yese five Children of Christen seyth,

COL. 2.

The noble King *Peada* by God's grace
Was the first founder of this place.

COL. 3.

By Queen *Ermenyld* had King *Wulfere*
Thele twey sons that ye see here.

COL. 4.

Wulfade rideth as he was wont
Into the Forest the Hart to hunt.

THE

THE SECOND.

W I N D O W.



COL. 1.

Fro all his men *Wulfade* is gone
And fuyth himself the Hart alone.

COL. 2.

The Hart brought *Wulfade* to a Well
That was beside Seynt *Chaddys* Cell.

COL. 3.

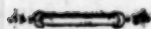
Wulfade askyd of Seynt *Chad*.
Where is the Hart that me hath lad.

COL. 4.

The Hart that hither thee hath brought
Is sent by Christ that thee hath bought.

THE

THE THIRD
W I N D O W.



COL. 1.

Wulfade prayd *Chad* that ghostly Leech
The Faith of Christ him for to teach.

COL. 2.

Seynt *Chad* teacheth *Wulfade* the feyth
And words of Baptism over him he seyth.

COL. 3.

Seynt *Chad* devoutly to Mass him dight
And hosed *Wulfade* Christy's knight.

COL. 4.

Wulfade wished Seynt *Chad* that day
For his brother *Rufine* to pray.

THE

THE FOURTH
W I N D O W.



COL. 1.

Wulfade told his Brother *Rufine*
That he was Christned by *Chaddys* doctrine.

COL. 2.

Rufine to *Wulfade* said again
Christned also would I be fain.

COL. 3.

Wulfade *Rufine* to Seynt *Chad* leedeth
And *Chad* with love of Faith him feedeth.

COL. 4.

Rufine is Christned of Seynt *Chaddys*
And *Wulfade* his Brother, his Godfather is.

THE

THE FIFTH
W I N D O W:



COL. 1.

Werbode Steward to King *Wulfere*
Told that his Sons Christned were.

COL. 2.

Toward the Chappel *Wulfere* gan goe
By guiding of *Werbode* Christys foe.

COL. 3.

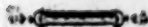
Into the Chappel entred the King
And found his Sons worshipping.

COL. 4.

Wulfere in woodness his Sword out drew
And both his Sons anon he flew.

THE

THE SIXTH
W I N D O W.



COL. 1.

King *Wulfere* with *Werbode* yoo
Burying gave his Sons two.

COL. 2.

Werbode for vengeance his own flesh tare
The Devil him strangled and to hell bare.

COL. 3.

Wulfere for sorrow anon was sick
In Bed he lay a dead man like.

COL. 4.

Seynt *Ermenyld* that blessed Queen
Counsell'd *Wulfere* to thrive him cleen.

N

THE

THE SEVENTH
W I N D O W.



COL. 1.

Wulfere contrite hyed him to *Chad*
As *Ermenyld* him counselled had.

COL. 2.

Chad bade *Wulfere* for his fin
Abbeys to build his Realm within.

COL. 3.

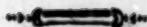
Wulfere in hast performed than
Brough that *Peada* his brother began

COL. 4.

Wulfere endued with high devotion
The Abbey of *Brough* with great possession.

THE

THE EIGHTH
W I N D O W.



COL. 1.

The third Brother King *Etheldred*
Confirmed both his Brethrens deed.

COL. 2.

Saxulf that here first Abbot was
For *Ankerys* at *Thorney* made a place.

COL. 3.

After came *Danes* and *Brough* brent
And flew the Monkys as they went

COL. 4.

Fourscore years, and sixteen
Stood *Brough* destroyed by *Danes* teen.

THE NINTH
W I N D O W.



COL. 1.

Seynt *Athelwold* was bidden by Gods lore
The Abbey of *Brough* again to restore.

COL. 2.

Seynt *Athelwold* to king *Edgar* went
And prayed him to help him in his intent.

COL. 3.

Edgar bade *Athelwold* the work begin
And him to help he would not lyn.

COL. 4.

Thus *Edgar* and *Athelwold* restored this place,
God save it, and keep it for his grace.

HERE

HERE I have a fair invitation to coclude with my heartiest prayers, that this church may stand, and be employed to God's glory, and his people's good,—To which, how far the usurped authority of the late times was propitious, I leave the world to judge by the ensuing act, passed the 19th of August, 1651.

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE

MINSTER IN PETERBURGH.

BE it enacted by the Parliament now assembled, and it is enacted by the authority of the same, that the great church called the MINSTER within the City and Burrough of Peterburgh, and the church-yard thereunto belonging, shall be employed, and made use of by the inhabitants of the said City and Burrough in all time to come for the public worship and service of God, and for a work-house to employ the poorer sort of people in manufactures, the said inhabitants at their own costs and charges, repairing and maintaining the same.

A short,

8

*A short, true NARRATIVE of the Rifling
and Defacing the Cathedral Church of
PETERBOROUGH, in the year 1643.*



THE cathedral church of Peterborough, was very famous formerly for three remarkable things; a stately front, a curious altar-piece, and a beautiful cloister. — The first of the three doth still remain, a very goodly structure, supported with three such tall arches as England can scarce show the like. — The two last are since destroyed by sacrilegious hands; and have nothing now remaining, but only the bare memory of them. — In this place, I think I may say, began that strange kind of deformed reformation, which afterwards passed over most places of the land, by robbing, rifling and defacing churches. — This being one of the first which suffered in that kind. Of which this following account was given by an eye witness.

IN the year 1643, about the midst of April, there came several forces to Peterborough, raised by the parliament in the associated counties, in
order

order to besiege Croyland, a small Town about nine miles distant, which had a little before, declared for the king, and then was held a garrison for him.

THE first that came, was a foot-regiment under one Colonel Hubbart's command: Upon whose arrival, some persons of the town, fearing what happened afterwards, desired the chief commander to take care the soldiers did no injury to the church: This he promises to do, and gave orders to have the church doors all locked up. — Soon after comes a regiment of horse under Colonel Cromwel, a name as fatal to ministers, as it had been to monasteries before. — The next day after their arrival, early in the morning, these break open the church doors, pull down the organs, of which there were two pair. — The greater pair that stood upon an high loft over the entrance into the choir, was thence thrown down upon the ground, and there stamped and trampled on, and broke to pieces, with such strange furious and frantic zeal, as cannot well be conceived but by those who saw it.

THEN the soldiers enter the choir; and there their first business was to tear in pieces all the common-prayer books that could be found:—

The

The great bible that lay upon the bras eagle for reading the lessons, had the fortune to escape with the loss only of the apocrypha.

NEXT they break down all the seats, stalls and wainscot that was behind them, being adorned with several historical passages out of the old and new testament.—Whilst thus employed, they chance to find a parchment book behind the ceiling, with twenty pieces of gold, laid there by by a person a little before, as in a place of safety, in those unsafe and dangerous times—This encourages the soldiers in their work, and makes them the more eager in breaking down all the rest of the wainscot, in hopes of finding such another prize.

THIS book that was deposited there was redeemed afterwards of a soldier, by a person belonging to the minister, for ten shillings, under the notion of an old latin bible.

THERE was also a great bras candlestick hanging in the middle of the choir, containing about a dozen and half of lights, with another bow candlestick about the bras eagle: These both were broken in pieces, and most of the bras carried away and sold.

○

A well

A well disposed person standing by, and seeing the soldiers make such spoil and havock, speaks to one that appeared like an officer, desiring him to restrain the soldiers from such enormities.— But all the answer he obtained, was only a scoffing reply, to this purpose: "*See how these poor people are concerned to see their idols pulled down.*"

So the inhabitants of Peterborough at that time, were accounted by these reformers, both a malignant and superstitious kind of people.

WHEN they had thus defaced and spoiled the choir, they march up next to the east end of the church, and there break and cut in pieces, and afterwards burn the rails that were about the communion table; throw down the table itself; take away the table-cloth, with two fair books in velvet covers, the one a bible the other a common prayer book, with a silver basin gilt, and a pair of silver candlesticks: But upon request made to Colonel Hubbard, the books, basin, and all else, save the candlesticks, were restored again.

Not long after, on the 13th of July 1643, Captain Barton, and Captain Hope, two martial ministers of Nottingham or Derbyshire, coming to Peterborough, break open the vestry, and take
away

away a fair crimson fatin table-cloth, and several other things that had escaped the former soldiers hands.

BEHIND the communion table, there stood a very curious piece of stone-work, admired much by strangers and travellers, (see page 76) and bore the name of the High Altar, which was pulled down with ropes, level with the ground.

OVER this place, in the roof of the church, in a large oval, was the picture of our Saviour seated on a throne, one hand erected, and holding in the other a globe, attended with the four evangelists and saints on each side, with crowns in their hands; intended, as supposed, for a representation of our Saviour's coming to judgement. Some of the company espying this, cry out and say, "*Lo! this is the God these poor people bow and cringe unto: This is the idol they worship and adore.*"—Hereupon, several soldiers charge their muskets, and discharge them at it; and, by the many shots they made, at length do quite deface and spoil the picture.

THE odiousness of this act, gave occasion to a common fame very rife at that time; and whence *Mercurius Rusticus* might have his relation, viz.

O 2

that

that divine vengeance had signally siezed on some of the principal actors; that one was struck blind upon the place, by a rebound of his bullet; and another died mad a little after.

AND now I am engaged in telling the story of their impiety and profaneness at *Peterborough*, it will be no great excursion to step to *Yaxley*, a neighbouring town, and mention one thing done there, which was this: On the 10th of June, 1643, some of the soldiers coming hither, break open the church doors, piss in the font, and then baptize a horse and a mare, using the solemn words of baptism, and signing them with the sign of the cross.

BUT to return to our reforming rabble at *Peterborough*, when there was no painted or carved work to demolish, then they rob and rife the tombs, and violate the monuments of the dead. — And where should they first begin, but with those of the two Queens. — The one on the north side, the other on the south side of the choir, near unto the altar. — First, they demolish Queen Catherine's tomb, the repudiated wife of Henry VIII. — They break down the rails that enclosed the place, and take away the black velvet pall which covered the herse; overthrew the herse itself; displace the gravestone that lay
over

over her body; and left nothing now remaining of that tomb, but a monument of their own shame and villany.—The like they had certainly done to the Queen of Scots, but her herse and pall were removed with her body to Westminster, by *King James I.* when he came to the crown; but what did remain, as her royal arms and escutcheons, were most rudely pulled down, defaced and torn.

IN the north ile of the church, was a stately tomb in memory of Bishop Dove, thirty years bishop of this place.—He lay in portraiture in his episcopal robes, on a large bed under a fair table of black marble, with a library of books about him. These men were such enemies to the name and office of a bishop, and much more to *his* person, hack and hew the poor innocent statue in pieces, and soon destroyed all the tomb. So that in a short space, all that fair and curious monument was buried in its own rubbish and ruins.

THE like they do to two other monuments standing in that isle; the one the tomb of Mr. Worm, the other of Dr. Angier who had been a prebendary of this church.

WHEN they had thus demolished the chief monuments, at length the very gravestones and
marbles

marbles on the floor did not escape their sacrilegious hands; for where there was any thing on them of sculptures, or inscriptions in brass, they tear them off or deface them.

ONE thing indeed I must needs clear the soldiers of, which *Mercurius Rusticus* charges them with, viz. That they took away the bell clappers, and sold them with the brass they plucked off the tombs.—The mistake was this: The neighbourhood being continually disturbed with soldiers jangling and ringing the bells, as though there had been a scare-fire (though there was no other but what they themselves had made) some of the inhabitants by night, took away the clappers and hid them in the roof of the church on purpose only to free their ears from that confused noise,

HAVING done their work on the floor, they are now at leisure to look up at the windows, which entertained and gave delight to most beholders; but only such zealots as these, whose eyes were so dazzled, they thought they saw popery in every picture and piece of painted glass.

THESE windows were very fair, and had much curiosity of workmanship in them, being adorned and beautified with several historical passages out
of

of scripture and ecclesiastical stories; such were those in the body of the church, in the isles, in the new building, and else-where.—But the cloister windows were most famed of all, for their great art and pleasing variety.—One side of the Quadrangle, containing the history of the Old Testament; another, that of the New; a third, the Foundling and Founders of the church; all the Kings of England downward from the first Saxon King. All which were most shamefully broken and destroyed.

AND amongst other things thus demolished in the windows, there was one thing fame had made remarkable, and that was the story of the Paschal Pickeril.

THE thing was this: Our Saviour was represented in two places in the cloister, and in the great western window, sitting at his last supper with his twelve apostles; in one place there was a single fish; in the other, three fishes in a dish set before him.—This occasioned that discourse and common talk of the Paschal Pickeril at Peterborough.—The meaning of which conceit, was this, that it was the device of some devout and ignorant artist, from a notion he had of the time this last supper must needs be in, that is of
Lent,

Lent, and that our Saviour was a strict observer of Lent and eat no flesh all that season; and therefore, He took the liberty to substitute a fish instead of the paschal lamb.—However it was, it is certain, that particular piece of glass wherein the three fishes are portrayed, happened to be preserved in the great devastation, and yet to be seen.—But before I conclude this narrative, I must not forget to tell, how they likewise broke open the chapter-house, ransacked the records, broke the seals, tore the writings in pieces, especially such as had great seals annexed to them, which they took or mistook for the Pope's bulls. So that a grave and sober person coming into the room at that time, finds the floor all strewed and covered with torn papers, parchments and broken seals; and being astonished at the sight, does thus expostulate with them: Gentlemen! what are you doing? They answer, we are pulling and tearing the Pope's bulls in pieces.—He replies, ye are very much mistaken; for these are neither the Pope's bulls nor any thing relating to him: But they are the evidences of several mens estates; and in destroying these, you will undo and destroy many: With this they were something persuaded, and prevailed upon by the same person, to permit him to carry away all that were undefaced; by which means the writings the church hath now, came to be preserved.

SUCH

SUCH was the soldiers behaviour during their stay at Peterborough, which was about a fortnight: They went to the church duly, but it was only to do mischief, and pull down what the first founders did not set up with greater zeal, than these last confounders pulled them down.

THUS, in a short time, a fair and goodly structure was quite stript of all its ornamental beauty, and made a ruthful spectacle; a very chaos of desolation and confusion; nothing scarce remaining but bare walls, broken seats, and shattered windows on every side.

AND in the time of this public confusion, two other things happened, not unworthy of relating. The first was, when the church doors lay open to all comers, and none to look after them; those especially which led up to the leads above.

Two young children not above five years old, had got up the steeple by themselves, and having lost their way down, come to the place where the great bells hang.—Here there was a large round space left purposely, when first built, for the drawing up bells, or any other things, as there should be occasion.—This place used to be safely closed before, but it lay wide open, and was be-

P

tween

tween thirty and forty yards off the ground.— The two children coming hither and finding this passage, one, out of childish simplicity was for jumping down, “No, (says the other) let us swarm down,” there being a bell rope hanging down from that place to the clock house below. Now this last they did; a gentleman walking there beneath at that time, sees two children come with that swiftness down the rope like arrows from a bow, who were both taken up for dead on the place.—This happened on a Sunday afternoon in the time of sermon. — The news coming to the parish-church, that two children had fallen off the minster, and were slain, the congregation was exceedingly disordered, so that the preacher could not go on for some time, every parent fearing it might be their own children’s case, till at length they understood the truth and certainty of all; for it pleased God, by a strange and wonderful providence, to preserve both these children, having no hurt but only their hands galled by the rope, and their feet a little stunted by the fall from the old clock-house. where they were thrown off, the rope being fastened there, and this four or five yards high.

THE other thing that happened, of more fatal consequence, was this: It being the time of the
year

year when young lads are busy in rifling the jack-daws nests, to get their young, a scholar of the grammar school, son to a parliament-officer, got upon the top of the minster about this employment; who going along the ceiling, in the body of the church, and treading unwarily on some rotten boards, fell down from thence, upon the loft where the organ stood, having his pockets filled with those inauspicious birds; and with the fall from so great a height, was killed on the spot, and never stirred more.

BUT to proceed to our narrative.—The things I have related before, were indeed the acts of private persons only, men of wild intemperate zeal, and had no commission for what they did, but what was owing to the sword by their sides. Yet notwithstanding, all these things seemed afterwards to be approved by the powers then in being, when they sold all the church lands, and many fair buildings adjoining the minster, were likewise pulled down and sold by public order and authority; such were the cloisters, the old chapter-house, the library, the bishop's hall and chapel at the end of it: The hall was as fair a room as most in *England*; and another called the green chamber not much inferior to it.—These all were then pulled down and destroyed, and

the materials, lead, timber, and stone exposed to sale: But some of the bargains proved not very prosperous; the lead especially, that came off the palace, was as fatal as the gold of *Tholouse*; for the merchant that bought it, lost both lead and ship in her voyage to Holland.

AND thus the church continued ruined and desolate, and without all divine offices for a time; till at length by the favour of a great person in the neighbourhood, it was repaired and restored to some degrees of decency again; and out of the ashes of a late cathedral, grew up a new parochial church, in which way it was used, until the happy restoration of *King Charles II.*

THEN *Dr. Cofin*, the ancient dean of this church, after near twenty years exile in *France*, returned and reassumed his right again, in the year 1660; renewed the ancient usage, and read divine service first himself, and caused it to be read every day afterwards, according to the old laudable use and custom, and settled the church and choir in that order wherein it now continues.

BUT tho' the church was thus delivered from public robbers and spoilers, yet it was not safe from the injuries of private hands; for about ten
or

or twelve years after, certain thieves, in the dead of the night, broke into the church and stole away all the plate they could find, viz. a fair silver bason gilt; and the vergers two silver rods, which were never heard of to this day.

THIS was the same bason that had been plundered by the soldiers, and recovered again, but irrecoverably lost now. Yet both these losses were soon repaired, one by *Bishop Henshaw*, who gave a new silver bason gilt; and the ensigns of the verger's office made up by *Dr. Duport*, dean; who bought two new silver maces for the use of the church.

WE have now read what various fortunes this ancient church has had, which reckons near 1200 years from its first foundation.—It has been often ruined and as often repaired.—Once it was entirely destroyed by the Danes, twice consumed by fire; it escaped the general downfall of abbies in the time of *Henry 8th*, tho' not without the loss of some of her fairest manors; and yet what that king took away in revenues, he added to it in dignity, by converting it from an abby into a cathedral church: But the worst mischief that ever befel it, was that in the rebellious times by *Cromwell's Soldiers*, when the church was miserably

rably spoiled, and the lands thereof sold: And yet through God's especial goodness, we have lived to see the one repaired, the others restored, and the church itself, recovering her ancient beauty and lusture again.

AND that it may long thus continue, flourish and prosper, and be a nursery for virtue, a seminary for true religion and piety, a constant preserver of God's public worship and service, and free from all sacrilegious hands, is the earnest and hearty prayer, wherewith is concluded this discourse.



d
e
l,
t

a
-
-
l
t
s